

NAEP 2000

Summary of NAEP Activities

2000 NAEP National Assessment Program

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally mandated project overseen by the National Center for Education Statistics, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education. Commonly known as the Nation's Report Card, NAEP has collected data since 1969 about what American school children know and can do in a variety of key subject areas. NAEP is the only ongoing study that tracks trends in student achievement at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

Between January and March 2000, NAEP will assess students in grades 4, 8, and 12 in mathematics and science. Fourth grade students will also be assessed in reading. Mathematics and science assessments will include hands-on science experiments and the use of mathematical tools such as calculators, protractors, and geometric shapes.

The participation of selected schools and students is vital to the success of NAEP 2000. This document provides a brief overview of assessment plans and the roles of participating schools and school staff. NAEP staff members will provide more detailed information when they contact schools in the fall to discuss the assessment.



What are the Responsibilities of the NAEP Staff?

NAEP staff will perform the following tasks:

- Work with the school to set a date between January and March 2000 for the assessment.
- Provide schools with instructions for preparing a list of grade-eligible students;
- Select a sample of students from lists prepared by the school or district;
- Prepare all student appointment cards, parent letters (if required by the school or district), and questionnaires for distribution;
- Bring all assessment materials to the school on the scheduled day;
- Conduct the assessments;
- Remove and ship all completed materials from the school after the assessments are completed; and
- Provide NAEP reports when they are available.



What is Involved for Schools?

- Up to 110 students (depending on the size of the school) will be assessed in sessions of about 30 students each.
- Assessments will take 90 minutes of each student's time. One-half of the students taking the science assessment will also be asked to complete the hands-on science task. This task will take an additional 20 minutes for grade 4 and 30 minutes for grades 8 and 12.
- Questionnaires will be distributed to the principal, the mathematics, science, or reading teachers of the sampled students, and the teachers of selected students who have disabilities (SD) or are limited-English-proficient (LEP).
- At grade 12, a sample of schools will be asked to take part in the Transcript Study. In these schools, at the end of the school year, NAEP will collect the transcripts of students selected for the assessment. No student time will be involved in the conduct of the Transcript Study, and schools will be reimbursed at their usual rate for all transcripts collected.
- Schools are requested to designate a staff member, to be known as the school coordinator, to assist NAEP staff with in-school arrangements.



What are the School Coordinator's Responsibilities?

1 Work with NAEP staff to select students to be assessed.

During mid-December 1999 or early January 2000, a NAEP supervisor will call to schedule a visit to the school. About 2 weeks before the assessment, the supervisor will visit to select the student sample and discuss arrangements for the assessment.

A list of eligible students should be prepared immediately before the supervisor's visit and kept at the school. The list should contain the names of all grade-eligible students. It may be prepared by the school or district, whichever has the most up-to-date information on enrollment. The list may be computer generated or recorded on student listing forms provided by NAEP. Names will be used only at the school and removed from all materials that leave the school.

2 For the selected students, perform the following tasks:

- Provide information on each student's date of birth, sex, race/ethnicity, and teacher of the subject in which the student will be assessed;
- Identify SD/LEP students. Then, determine which of these students should be included in the assessment according to NAEP criteria;
- Identify students participating in the Title 1 program; and
- Determine students' participation status in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP).

3 Coordinate details.

- Arrange for suitable space for the assessment session(s) in the school.
- Confirm time and other details when the NAEP supervisor calls.

4 Distribute and collect assessment questionnaires.

The NAEP supervisor will prepare and leave three types of questionnaires with the school coordinator:

- The School Questionnaire to be completed by the principal;
- Teacher Questionnaires for the mathematics, science, and reading (grade 4 only) teachers of students being assessed in those subjects; and
- The SD/LEP Student Questionnaire about each sampled SD or LEP student.

The questionnaires should be completed by appropriate staff before the day of the assessment and will be collected by the NAEP supervisor.

5 Notify teachers and students about NAEP.

The school coordinator should follow usual school procedures in notifying the selected students, their teachers, and parents (if required by school policy) of the assessment date, time, and location.

6 Ensure that students attend the session.

NAEP supervisors will conduct the session(s) and will bring all assessment materials to the school. It is very important that attendance rates be as high as possible to avoid the need for makeup sessions.



For more information visit the NAEP web site at:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

NAEP appreciates schools' support and cooperation in making the NAEP program an ongoing success.